



Legislative Bulletin.....June 5, 2007

Contents:

- H.Res. 390** — Recognizing the importance of the Ouachita National Forest on its 100th anniversary
- H.Res. 401** — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Trails Day
- H.Con.Res. 116** — Expressing the sense of Congress that the National Museum of Wildlife Art, located in Jackson, Wyoming, shall be designated as the “National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States”
- H.Con.Res. 94** — Encouraging the elimination of harmful fishing subsidies that contribute to overcapacity in commercial fishing fleets worldwide and that lead to the overfishing of global fish stocks
- H.Res. 341** — Supporting the goals and ideals of “American Eagle Day”, and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States
- H.Con.Res. 54** — Expressing the support of Congress for the creation of a National Hurricane Museum and Science Center in Southwest Louisiana
- H.R. 1175** — To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to increase the ceiling on the Federal share of the costs of phase I of the Orange County, California, Regional Water Reclamation Project
- H.R. 1139** — Riverside-Corona Feeder Water Supply Act
- H.R. 1736** — To amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to provide for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in Juab County, Utah
- H.R. 361** — Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2007
- H.R. 1469** — Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007
- H.Con.Res. 152** — Relating to the 40th anniversary of the reunification of the City of Jerusalem
- H.Res. 397** — Condemning violence in Estonia and attacks on Estonia's embassies in 2007, and expressing solidarity with the Government and the people of Estonia
- H.Res. 412** — Expressing gratitude to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, for their State Visit to the United States and reaffirming the friendship that exists between the United States and the United Kingdom
- H.Res. 422** — Calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur, Sudan
- H.Res. 430** — Calling on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to immediately release Dr. Haleh Esfandiari

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today

Total Number of New Government Programs: 1

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$384.7 million over five years

Effect on Revenue: Negligible increase

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 4

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 1

H.Res. 390 — Recognizing the importance of the Ouachita National Forest on its 100th anniversary (*Ross, D-AR*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 390 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 390 would express that, “on the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Ouachita National Forest, the House of Representatives recognizes the important contributions of the Ouachita National Forest to the success of the United States in conserving the environment and ensuring that our natural resources remain sources of pride for our citizens, our communities, and our Nation.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “on December 18, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt created by proclamation the Arkansas National Forest on reserved public domain lands south of the Arkansas River;
- “on April 29, 1926, President Calvin Coolidge issued an Executive Order to change the name of the Arkansas National Forest to the Ouachita National Forest to reflect both the name of the mountains embraced by the national forest and the name of the principal river which drains the national forest;
- “Ouachita is the French spelling of a Native American word meaning ‘good hunting ground’;

- “Ouachita National Forest today encompasses approximately 1.8 million acres in Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma and offers a variety of recreation areas, scenic areas, wilderness areas, historic resources, and timber and other forest products to the Nation; and
- “the Ouachita National Forest is the largest and oldest national forest in the southern region of the United States.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 390 was introduced on May 9, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On May 11, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.Res. 401 — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Trails Day (Thompson, D-CA)

Order of Business: H.Res. 401 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 401 would express that the House of Representatives,

- “supports the goals and ideals of National Trails Day; and
- “honors the contributions National Trails Day has made to inspire the public and trail enthusiasts to discover, learn about, maintain, and celebrate trails.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “June 2, 2007, is observed as National Trails Day;
- “there are over 200,000 miles of trails in the United States, providing access to public lands for recreational and educational opportunities;
- “trails enrich communities throughout the United States by helping to protect habitats, watersheds, and cultural and historic artifacts;
- “72.1 percent of all Americans age 16 and older participate in at least one of twenty-two designated outdoor activities, including hiking, backpacking, and trail running;

- “National Trails Day events take place in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands to celebrate trails, recognize volunteers, and maintain local trails;
- “thousands of volunteers and event coordinators throughout the United States make National Trails Day events possible; and
- “2007 is the 15th Anniversary Celebration of National Trails Day.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 401 was introduced on May 14, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On May 18, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.Con.Res. 116 — Expressing the sense of Congress that the National Museum of Wildlife Art, located in Jackson, Wyoming, shall be designated as the “National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States” (Cubin, R-WY)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 116 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 116 would express the sense of the House of Representatives “that the National Museum of Wildlife Art, located at 2820 Rungius Road, Jackson, Wyoming, shall be designated as the ‘National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States’.”

The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming, is devoted to inspiring global recognition of fine art related to nature and wildlife;
- “the National Museum of Wildlife Art, which was founded in 1987 with a private gift of a collection of art, has grown in stature and importance and is recognized today as the world’s premier museum of wildlife art;
- “the National Museum of Wildlife Art is the only public museum in the United States with the mission of enriching and inspiring public appreciation and

- knowledge of fine art, while exploring the relationship between humanity and nature by collecting fine art focused on wildlife;
- “the National Museum of Wildlife Art is housed in an architecturally significant and award-winning 51,000-square foot facility that overlooks the 28,000-acre National Elk Refuge and is adjacent to the Grand Teton National Park;
 - “the National Museum of Wildlife Art is accredited with the American Association of Museums, continues to grow in national recognition and importance with members from every State, and has a Board of Trustees and a National Advisory Board composed of major benefactors and leaders in the arts and sciences from throughout the United States; and
 - “the National Museum of Wildlife Art is a destination attraction in the Western United States with annual attendance of 92,000 visitors from all over the world and an award-winning website that receives more than 10,000 visits per week.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 116 was introduced on May 18, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On May 19, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, which held a mark-up on the same day and forwarded the resolution to the full committee, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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**H.Con.Res. 94 — Encouraging the elimination of harmful fishing subsidies that contribute to overcapacity in commercial fishing fleets worldwide and that lead to the overfishing of global fish stocks
(Bordallo, D-Guam)**

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 94 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 94 would express the sense of the House of Representatives that “the United States should continue to promote the elimination of harmful fishing subsidies that promote overcapitalization; overfishing; illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing; and destructive fishing practices that would not otherwise be economically viable.”

The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “nearly 1,000,000,000 people around the world depend on fish as their primary source of dietary protein;
- “scientists have estimated that a significant percentage of big predator fish such as tuna, marlin, and swordfish are gone from the world’s oceans and warn of a global collapse within this century of all species now fished if current trends in overfishing are not reversed;
- “the global fishing fleet capacity is estimated to be up to 250 percent greater than is needed to catch what the ocean can sustainably produce;
- “the Congress recognized the threat of overfishing to our oceans and economy and therefore included the requirement to end overfishing in the United States by 2011 in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-479);
- “harmful fishing subsidies are concentrated in relatively few countries, putting other fishing countries, including the United States, at an economic disadvantage;
- “the United States is a world leader in advancing policies to eliminate harmful fishing subsidies that support overcapacity and promote overfishing; and
- “a wide range of countries are currently engaged in historic negotiations to end harmful fishing subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 94 was introduced on March 20, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On March 22, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.Res. 341 — Supporting the goals and ideals of “American Eagle Day”, and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States (Davis, R-TN)

Order of Business: H.Res. 341 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 341 would express that the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of “American Eagle Day” and encourages:

- “educational entities, organizations, businesses, conservation groups, and government agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate on education information for use in schools; and
- “the people of the United States to observe American Eagle Day with appropriate ceremonies and other activities.”

The resolution lists several findings, including:

- “the bald eagle is the central image used in the Great Seal of the United States and the seals of the President and Vice President;
- “the image of the bald eagle is displayed in the official seal of many branches and departments of the Federal Government;
- “the bald eagle is an inspiring symbol of the American spirit of freedom and democracy;
- “the image, meaning, and symbolism of the bald eagle have played a significant role in American art, music, history, literature, architecture, and culture since the founding of our Nation;
- “the habitat of bald eagles exists only in North America;
- “by 1963, the number of nesting pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 States had dropped to about 417;
- “by 2006, the number of bald eagles in the lower 48 States had increased to approximately 7,000 to 8,000 nesting pairs;
- “the initial recovery of the bald eagle population was accomplished by the concerted efforts of numerous government agencies, corporations, organizations, and individuals; and
- “the sustained recovery of the bald eagle populations will require the continuation of recovery, management, education, and public awareness programs, to ensure that the populations and habitat of bald eagles will remain healthy and secure for future generations.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 341 was introduced on April 26, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On April 27, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.Con.Res. 54 — Expressing the support of Congress for the creation of a National Hurricane Museum and Science Center in Southwest Louisiana (Boustany, R-LA)

Order of Business: H.Con.Res. 54 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 54 would express that “Congress supports and encourages the creation of a National Hurricane Museum and Science Center in southwest Louisiana.”

The Resolution lists the following findings:

- “the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road District Board of Commissioners has begun to create and develop a National Hurricane Museum and Science Center in the southwest Louisiana area;
- “protecting, preserving, and showcasing the intrinsic qualities that make Louisiana a one-of-a-kind experience is the mission of the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road;
- “the horrific experience and the devastation long-term effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will play a major role in the history of the United States;
- “a science center of this caliber will educate and motivate young and old in the fields of meteorology, environmental science, sociology, conservation, economics, history, communications, and engineering;
- “It is only appropriate that the effects of hurricanes and the rebuilding efforts be captured in a comprehensive center such as a National Hurricane Museum and Science Center to interpret the effects of hurricanes in and outside of Louisiana; and
- “it is critical that the history of past hurricanes be preserved so that all people in the United States can learn from this history.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 54 was introduced on February 2, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On February 7, 2007, the resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.R. 1175 — To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to increase the ceiling on the Federal share of the costs of phase I of the Orange County, California, Regional Water Reclamation Project (*Sanchez, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.R. 1175 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1175 would amend current law to **increase** the limit on the federal share of the cost of a local project — phase I of the Orange County Regional Water Reclamation Project for FY2007-FY2016.

The bill would increase the federal share limits to:

- \$22,000,000 for fiscal year 2007
- \$24,200,000 for fiscal year 2008
- \$26,620,000 for fiscal year 2009
- \$29,282,000 for fiscal year 2010
- \$32,210,200 for fiscal year 2011
- \$35,431,220 for fiscal year 2012
- \$38,974,342 for fiscal year 2013
- \$42,871,776 for fiscal year 2014
- \$47,158,953 for fiscal year 2015
- \$51,874,849 for fiscal year 2016

Additional Information: The Orange County Water Reclamation Project, which was created to retrieve and reuse wastewater in the Orange County, California, area, was designed in three distinct phases. According to Bureau of Reclamation, Phase I of the project will supply 50,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of fresh water. Each subsequent phase will provide approximately 25,000 AFY to the residents in the region. One AFY is enough to supply eight people with water for a year.

Under current law the federal government is authorized to participate in the design, planning and construction of the project, **and the federal share of the cost may not exceed 25 percent.** H.R. 1175 would authorize funding to the levels above, regardless of the percentage of the federal share.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 1175 states specific levels of authorization for a local project that is currently authorized based on a percentage of the federal share of the total cost of the project. In addition, a CBO estimate of this legislation is not available.

Committee Action: H.R. 1175 was introduced on February 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On February 27, 2007, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 1175 is not currently available. However, as noted above, the bill would allow the federal government to spend \$350 million over ten years on this local project.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” *[emphasis added]*.

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H.R. 1139 — Riverside-Corona Feeder Water Supply Act (Calvert, R-CA)

Order of Business: H.R. 1139 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1139 would **authorize \$50 million** for the Secretary of the Interior to participate with the Western Municipal Water District in the planning, design and construction of the Riverside-Corona Feeder water supply project. The project would include 20 groundwater wells, groundwater treatment facilities, water storage and pumping facilities, and 28 mile of water pipeline.

The federal share for the construction and design would be limited to 25 percent of the total cost and the federal share for planning studies would be limited to 50 percent. The local federal cost for the project could not exceed \$50 million and the Secretary could not use funds for the operation or maintenance of the project.

Additional Information: According to Riverside County’s Western Municipal Water District, the Riverside/Corona Feeder project will reduce the community’s dependency on imported water by collecting and conveying local water runoff. The runoff water would be stored in San Bernardino Valley groundwater basins and delivered to consumers via a system of 20 wells and a 28 mile-long pipeline that would be built, in part, with federal funds authorized by H.R. 1139. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$151 million, with state and local governments assuming \$100 million of the cost.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 1139 authorizes \$50 million for a local water project. In addition, a CBO score is not available for this legislation.

Committee Action: H.R. 1139 was introduced on February 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On February 27, 2007, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 1139 is not currently available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

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H.R. 1736 — To amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to provide for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in Juab County, Utah (Cannon, R-UT)

Order of Business: H.R. 1739 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1739 adds Juab County, Utah to the current list of Utah counties eligible to receive federal funding in a current \$10 million study and development project by the Utah Division of Water Resources of systems to allow ground water recharge, management, and the conjunctive use of surface water resources with ground water resources. The current list of counties includes: Salt Lake, Utah, Davis, Wasatch, and Weber.

Additional Information: According to a CBO estimate for H.R. 4013, an identical bill that passed by voice vote during the second session of the 109th Congress, conjunctive use projects are a type of water distribution system that stores water runoff from the surface in groundwater aquifers. Under the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, the counties listed above are eligible to receive federal funding for conjunctive use projects.

According to the Committee Report for H.R. 4013 (CR 109-443), the “federal Central Utah Project has enabled the State of Utah to beneficially use a substantial portion of its allotted share of Colorado River water under the Colorado River Compact. During initial Project feasibility studies, planners had envisioned developing water supplies in the northern mountainous region and delivering them through a series of reservoirs, tunnels and pipelines to the southern basin areas, including Juab County. That plan never materialized because it was initially determined that the water would stay north to meet the growing population demands of the northern counties rather than agricultural needs in the southern counties. Although Juab County continues to pay into the Project, it is not receiving benefits. As local water demands grow, Juab County is seeking to more effectively use its existing water supplies through conjunctive use of surface and groundwater sources.”

Committee Action: H.R. 1736 was introduced on March 28, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On April 17, 2007, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: Although a CBO score for H.R. 1736 is not available, a CBO estimate for H.R. 4013 stated that the federal share of a project in Juab County would be \$5 million, subject to appropriations.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

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H.R. 361 — Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2007 (*Hinojosa, D-TX*)

Order of Business: H.R. 361 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 361 would authorize **\$85 million to create eighteen new projects** for water conservation and improvement in Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Hudspeth, and El Paso counties, Texas.

The bill would allow the Secretary of the Interior, through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct and participate in any project that includes:

- replacement of irrigation canals and lateral canals with buried pipelines;
- impervious lining of irrigation canals and lateral canals;
- installation of water level, flow measurement, pump control, and telemetry systems;
- renovation and replacement of pumping plants; and
- activities that will result in the conservation of water or an improved supply of water.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that this legislation would authorize \$85 million to fund eighteen broadly defined water reclamation projects without a CBO estimate.

Committee Action: H.R. 361 was introduced on January 10, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On February 7, 2007, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Water and Power, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 361 is not currently available

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” *[emphasis added]*.

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H.R. 1469 — Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007 (Lantos, D-CA)

Order of Business: H.R. 1469 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1469 would authorize **\$80 million per year to establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation**, a public corporation under the executive branch that would create grants for students to study abroad. The foundation would consist of a board of directors, which would be chaired by the Secretary of State and managed by a CEO. The board would be responsible for encouraging students to study abroad by offering grants to universities, nongovernmental institutions, consortiums, and individuals that promote, conduct, and participate in study abroad programs.

The bill would require the foundation to make flexible grants available to **minority** students, students with financial need, and “**nontraditional**” students (undefined, but often refers to adult students) and students traveling to developing nations. The foundation would also be directed to raise private sector funds and to minimize administrative costs as much as possible.

H.R. 1469 would set requirements, procedures, and rules the foundation’s CEO and board of directors and establish the rules by which the foundation would organize and operate. The bill also outlines the powers of the foundation and requires the foundation to make annual reports to Congress.

The bill lists as its purposes:

- “to significantly enhance the global competitiveness and international knowledge base of the United States by ensuring that more United States students have the opportunity to acquire foreign language skills and international knowledge through significantly expanded study abroad;
- “to enhance the foreign policy capacity of the United States by significantly expanding and diversifying the talent pool of individuals with non-traditional foreign language skills and cultural knowledge in the United States who are available for recruitment by United States foreign affairs agencies, legislative branch agencies, and nongovernmental organizations involved in foreign affairs activities;
- “to ensure that an increasing portion of study abroad by United States students will take place in nontraditional study abroad destinations such as the People’s Republic of China, countries of the Middle East region, and developing countries; and
- “to create greater cultural understanding of the United States by exposing foreign students and their families to United States students in countries that have not traditionally hosted large numbers of United States students.”

The bill also lists a number of findings, including:

- “Studies consistently show that United States students score below their counterparts in other advanced countries on indicators of international knowledge. This lack of global literacy is a national liability in an age of global trade and business, global interdependence, and global terror;
- “Americans believe that it is important for their children to learn other languages, study abroad, attend a college where they can interact with international students, learn about other countries and cultures, and generally be prepared for the global age;
- “Study abroad has proven to be a very effective means of imparting international and foreign-language competency to students;
- “Less than 10 percent of the students who graduate from United States institutions of higher education with bachelors degrees have studied abroad;

- “The Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (The 9/11 Commission Report) recommended that the United States increase support for ‘scholarship, exchange, and library programs’. The 9/11 Public Discourse Project, successor to the 9/11 Commission, noted in its November 14, 2005, status report that this recommendation was ‘unfulfilled,’ and stated that ‘The U.S. should increase support for scholarship and exchange programs, our most powerful tool to shape attitudes over the course of a generation’. In its December 5, 2005, Final Report on the 9/11 Commission Recommendations, the 9/11 Public Discourse Project gave the government a grade of ‘D’ for its implementation of this recommendation; and
- “An enhanced national study abroad program could help further the goals of other United States Government initiatives to promote educational, social, and political reform and the status of women in developing and reforming societies around the world, such as the Middle East Partnership Initiative.”

Additional Information: According to Committee Report 110-138, this bill is intended to “dramatically increase study abroad participation to at least one million college students per year within 10 years of the date of enactment.” That figure would represent nearly 50 percent of the number of degrees given by accredited institutions of higher learning each year. According to CBO, about 200,000 college or university students currently travel abroad to receive academic credit annually. Although these students are not given specific grants for study abroad programs, federal financial aid grants and loans may be used by many students who study overseas.

According to College Board, more than 60 percent of all college and university students use Stafford Loans, PLUS Loans, Perkins Loans, Pell Grants, or education tax benefits, all of which can be used for study abroad programs, to help finance their education. Currently, there are no government restrictions against using any of the \$70 billion the federal government spends annually on financial aid for education abroad. In addition to federal aid, websites like www.studyabroadfunding.org, list as many as 236 different public and private loan opportunities specifically tailored for students to study abroad.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that this legislation would authorize \$80 million per year, in perpetuity, to fund a new grant program that is duplicating numerous other federal efforts. Conservatives might also be concerned that the foundation would give preference to students based on “minority” and “non-traditional” status.

Committee Action: H.R. 1469 was introduced on March 12, 2007 and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs which held a mark up and reported the bill by voice vote of March 27, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 1469 would cost \$40 million in FY 2008 and \$345 million over a five year period. Also, the bill would increase governmental receipts and direct spending because the foundation would receive and spend gift

donations. CBO estimates that the amounts would be inconsequential initially, but could become significant in later years.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes. It creates a new federal foundation under the Executive Branch that would provide federal grants to certain minority and special status students in order to study abroad.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

Constitutional Authority: Committee Report 110-138 does not cite Constitutional authority for H.R. 1469. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

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H.Con.Res. 152—Relating to the 40th anniversary of the reunification of the City of Jerusalem (*Lantos, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 152 would resolve that Congress:

- “congratulates the citizens of Israel on the 40th anniversary of the Six Day War in which Israel defeated enemies aiming to destroy the Jewish State;
- “congratulates the residents of Jerusalem and the people of Israel on the 40th anniversary of the reunification of that historic city;
- “commends those former combatant states of the Six Day War, Egypt and Jordan, who in subsequent years had the wisdom and courage to embrace a vision of peace and coexistence with Israel;
- “commends Israel for its administration of the undivided city of Jerusalem for the past 40 years, during which Israel has respected the rights of all religious groups;
- “reiterates its commitment to the provisions of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 and calls upon the President and all United States officials to abide by its provisions; and
- “urges the Palestinians and Arab countries to join with Israel in peace negotiations to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, including realization of the vision of two democratic states, Israeli and Palestinian, living side-by-side in peace and security.”

The resolution also notes that, “Jerusalem is also a holy city for the Christian and Muslim faiths.”

Additional Background: As the resolution notes, the Jewish population of the historic Old City of Jerusalem was driven out by force during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. From 1948 to 1967, Jerusalem was a divided city, and Israeli citizens of all faiths, as well as Jews of all nationalities, were denied access to holy sites in eastern Jerusalem, including the Old City, in which the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre are located.

The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-45) states, as a matter of United States policy, that Jerusalem should remain the undivided capital of Israel.

RSC Bonus Fact: Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN) introduced a Jerusalem reunification resolution ([H.Con.Res. 131](#)) one month before the introduction of H.Con.Res. 152. While the two resolutions are similar, the Wilson-Pence resolution does not make reference to Jerusalem as a holy city for Muslims, includes congratulations for the 59th anniversary of Israel's independence, and "reaffirms Israel's right to take necessary steps to prevent any future division of Jerusalem."

Committee Action: On May 22, 2007, H.Con.Res. 152 was referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee, which, on the following day, marked up the resolution and, by unanimous consent, agreed to seek House floor consideration of the resolution under suspension of the rules.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.Res. 397 — Condemning violence in Estonia and attacks on Estonia's embassies in 2007, and expressing solidarity with the Government and the people of Estonia (Shimkus, R-IL)

Order of Business: H.Res. 397 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 397 would express the sense of the House of Representatives that "the Soviet Union's brutal, decades-long occupation of Estonia was illegal, illegitimate, and a patent violation of Estonia's sovereignty and right to self-determination," and that the House of Representatives:

- “expresses its strong support for Estonia as a sovereign state and a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as it deals with matters internal to its country;
- “condemns recent acts of violence, vandalism, and looting that have taken place in Estonia;
- “condemns the attacks and threats against Estonia's embassies and officials in Russia and other countries;
- “urges all activists involved to express their views peacefully and reject violence;
- “honors the sacrifice of all those, including soldiers of the Red Army, that gave their lives in the fight to defeat Nazism;
- “condemns any and all efforts to callously exploit the memory of the victims of the Second World War for political gain; and
- supports the efforts of the Government of Estonia to initiate a dialogue with appropriate levels of the Government of the Russian Federation to resolve the crisis peacefully and to sustain cooperation between their two sovereign, independent states.”

The resolution also urges the governments of all countries to:

- “condemn the violence that has occurred in Estonia, Moscow, and elsewhere in 2007 and to urge all parties to express their views peacefully;
- “assist the Government of Estonia in its investigation into the source of cyber-attacks; and
- “fulfill their obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna April 18, 1961.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “on April 27, 2007, the Bronze Soldier Soviet monument in central Tallinn was moved to a prominent location in the Garrison Military Cemetery as a result of a decision by the Government of Estonia;
- “the Government of Estonia communicated its reasons for this decision to the Government of the Russian Federation and offered to work with Russian officials during the process, which the Russian officials declined to do;
- “on April 27, 2007, a crowd of more than 1,000 demonstrators gathered at the site of the memorial and riots broke out across Tallinn;
- “more than 153 people were injured as a result of the riots, and one died as a result of stabbing by another rioter;
- “on May 2, 2007, Prime Minister of Estonia Andrus Ansip stated that a ‘sovereign state is under a heavy attack’ and that the events constitute ‘a well-coordinated and flagrant intervention with the internal affairs of Estonia’;
- “on May 2, 2007, the European Commission expressed its solidarity with Estonia and urged Russia to respect its obligations to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna April 18, 1961, and end the blockade of the Embassy of Estonia in Moscow; and

- “the Embassy of Estonia in Russia has been closed since April 27, 2007, and Estonia has suspended consular services to Moscow because conditions remain unsafe for Embassy officials.”

Committee Action: On May 10, 2007, H.Res. 367 was referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee, which, on the May 23, 2007, marked up the resolution and, by unanimous consent, agreed to seek House floor consideration of the resolution under suspension of the rules.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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**H.Res. 412 — Expressing gratitude to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, for their State Visit to the United States and reaffirming the friendship that exists between the United States and the United Kingdom
(Boozman, R-AR)**

Order of Business: H.Res. 412 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 412 would express that the House of Representatives “is deeply appreciative of the State Visit recently conducted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and celebrates the State Visit as having been an occasion to reaffirm the value and depth of the friendship that exists between the United States and the United Kingdom.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, traveled to the United States for a State Visit from May 3 to May 8, 2007, celebrating the special relationship that exists between the United States and the United Kingdom;
- “the United States and the United Kingdom enjoy a trans-Atlantic friendship sustained by a commitment to democratic traditions, liberty, and the spread of freedom, as well as common economic and cultural foundations;

- “in a rapidly changing world, Queen Elizabeth II has been a force of stability and constancy and has provided inspiration to the world in times both peaceful and tumultuous;
- “Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip serve as ambassadors for the British people and the goodwill engendered by their visit serves as a reminder, for the people of the United States and the United Kingdom alike, of our joint values and priorities;
- “the United Kingdom, like the United States, has suffered loss of life on its own shores from terrorist elements; and
- “thousands of British troops today fight side-by-side with United States forces on the War on Terror’s most dangerous battlefields.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 412 was introduced on May 17, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark up on May 23, 2007, and, by unanimous consent, agreed to seek House floor consideration of the resolution under suspension of the rules.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.Res. 422 — Calling on the Government of the People’s Republic of China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur, Sudan (*Lee, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 422 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 422 would express that the House of Representatives:

- 1) “Calls upon the Government of the People’s Republic of China to:
 - “acknowledge publicly and condemn the atrocities taking place in Darfur;
 - “cease all military arms, ammunition, and related military equipment sales to the Government of Sudan; and
 - “take steps to immediately suspend economic cooperation with the Government of Sudan and investment in Sudan until and unless the Government of Sudan:
 - “stops its attacks on civilians;
 - “complies with all United Nations Security Council resolutions related to Darfur; and

- “engages in good faith negotiations with Darfur rebel groups to achieve a sustainable negotiated peace agreement.

2) “Recognizes the close relationship between China and Sudan and strongly urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to use its full influence to:

- “urge the regime in Khartoum to comply with the deployment of the peacekeeping force authorized by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1706;
- “call for Sudanese compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1556 and 1564, and the Darfur Peace Agreement, all of which demand that the Government of Sudan disarm militias operating in Darfur;
- “call on all parties to the conflict to adhere to the 2004 N’Djamena ceasefire agreement and the recently-agreed United Nations communique which commits the Sudanese Government to improve conditions for humanitarian organizations and ensure they have unfettered access to the populations they serve;
- “emphasize that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Darfur and that the formation and implementation of a legitimate peace agreement between all parties will contribute toward the welfare and stability of the entire nation and broader region;
- “urge all rebel groups to unify and assist all parties to come to the negotiating table in good faith;
- “urge the Government of southern Sudan to play a more active role in pressing for legitimate peace talks and take immediate steps to support and assist in the revitalization of such talks along one single coordinated track;
- “engage collaboratively in high-level diplomacy and multilateral efforts toward a renewed peace process; and
- “join the international community in imposing economic and other consequences on the Government of Sudan if that Government continues to carry out or support attacks on civilians and frustrate diplomatic efforts.

3) “Recognizes that the spirit of the Olympics, which is to bring together nations and people from all over the world in peace, is incompatible with any actions directly or indirectly supporting acts of genocide.”

Committee Action: On May 21, 2007, H. Res. 422 was referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee, which, on May 23, 2007, marked up the resolution and, by unanimous consent, agreed to seek House floor consideration of the resolution under suspension of the rules.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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H.Res. 430 — Calling on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to immediately release Dr. Haleh Esfandiari (*Van Hollen, D-MD*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 430 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 430 would express that the House of Representatives “calls on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to immediately release Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, replace her lost travel documents, and cease its harassment tactics.”

The resolution would also express the sense that:

- “the United States Government, through all appropriate means and diplomatic channels, should encourage the Government of Iran to release Dr. Esfandiari and offer her an apology; and
- “the United States should coordinate its response with its allies throughout the Middle East, other governments, and all appropriate international organizations.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, Ph.D., holds dual citizenship in the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- “Dr. Esfandiari taught Persian language and literature for many years at Princeton University, where she inspired untold numbers of students to study the rich Persian language and culture;
- “Dr. Esfandiari is a resident of the State of Maryland and the Director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC
- “for the past decade, Dr. Esfandiari has traveled to Iran twice a year to visit her ailing 93-year-old mother;
- “in December 2006, on her return to the airport during her last visit to Iran, Dr. Esfandiari was robbed by 3 masked, knife-wielding men, who stole her travel documents, luggage, and other effects;
- “when Dr. Esfandiari attempted to obtain replacement travel documents in Iran, she was invited to an interview by a representative of the Ministry of Intelligence of Iran;
- “Dr. Esfandiari was interrogated by the Ministry of Intelligence for 7 to 8 hours per day;
- “the lengthy interrogations of Dr. Esfandiari by the Ministry of Intelligence of Iran stopped on February 14, 2007, but she heard nothing for 10 weeks and was denied her passport;

- “on May 7, 2007, Dr. Esfandiari was summoned to the Ministry of Intelligence and taken immediately to Evin prison, where she is currently being held;
- “the Ministry of Intelligence has yet to produce any evidence of wrong-doing on Dr. Esfandiari's behalf to justify its actions toward her; and
- “the Government of Iran should immediately and unconditionally release Dr. Esfandiari and all other individuals being detained for participating in the free exchange of scholarship and ideas.”

Committee Action: On May 22, 2007, H.Res. 430 was referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee, which, on the following day, marked up the resolution and, by unanimous consent, agreed to seek House floor consideration of the resolution under suspension of the rules.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates? No.

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